**PATHLOGY AND PATHOGENESIS OF LIVER CIRRHOSIS:**

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**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this lecture the students will be able to:

1. Define Cirrhosis.
2. Recognize the types of cirrhosis.
3. Recognize the causes and the pathogenetic mechanisms leading to cirrhosis.
4. Describe the pathological findings in cirrhotic livers.

**Introduction**

Cirrhosis is a major cause of morbidity and mortality all over the world. The lecture is meant to be a practical guide to the approach to the diagnostic pathological process including the ancillary studies used for the identification of cirrhosis , with a brief review of the normal histology of the liver. Furthermore, a discussion of the mechanisms and causes (alcoholic, viral etc…) of liver cirrhosis will be addressed. The importance of the morphological characteristics on the liver biopsy will be considered

**Key Outlines:**

1. Brief review of the normal anatomy and histology of the liver.
2. Terminology.
3. Etiology.
4. Pathophysiology.
5. Clinical manifestations with diagnostic approach.
6. Pathological evaluation : The three major histological features including parenchymal nodules, bridging fibrosis and global involvement of the liver.
7. Conclusion.

**Summary**

Cirrhosis is the end stage of different patterns of injury to the liver leading to a common pathway characterized by the death of hepatocytes, extracellular matrix deposition and vascular reorganization. Although the causes of liver cirrhosis are varied and multiple and encompass acquired, genetic, metabolic and hemodynamic origin, the histological picture in the advance stages of cirrhosis is similar regardless of the etiology.

**Take home message**

The student will investigate into the causes , the pathogenetic mechanisms and the histological findings of liver cirrhosis.

**Prescribed reading:**

Pathologic Basis of Disease, Robbins and Cotran

**Further Reading**

Textbook of pathology

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